

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated May 12, 2006.

Applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application and the allowance of claim 17.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claim 17 has been allowed and claims 1-16 have been rejected.

Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,311,064 to Bamburak et al. ("Bamburak") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0203855 to Veerasamy et al. ("Veerasamy").

Claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bamburak in view of Veerasamy as applied to claims 2 and 11 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,037 to Parkkila ("Parkkila").

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Wireless phones are called cell phones because they are designed to wirelessly communicate with a transceiver located in a preset geographic area called a "cell". As the user of the cell phone moves from cell A to cell B, the communication from and to the cell phone shifts from a cell A transceiver to a cell B transceiver. Different service providers, e.g., Verizon, AT&T, Cingular, etc., use proprietary networks of transceivers. Therefore, even if geographic areas of the providers' cells overlap, Verizon subscribers cannot not use AT&T's cells' transceivers.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method for network acquisition. In accordance with the method, claim 1 recites "storing details of the cell, as cell information, to which the device was connected at the time of loss of the network for at least prior first and second separate instances of network loss". In other words, when the phone is turned off, information pertaining to the last "cell" in which the phone was used is remembered. Hence, when the phone is turned on again, communication with the transceiver of the remembered cell is resumed immediately, without searching through other cells trying to find the geographically appropriate cell to connect to.

Bamburak does not teach or suggest “storing details of the cell”.

Instead Bamburak is directed to locating a wireless service provider in a multi-service provider environment by examining frequency bands while powered down until a frequency band having an acceptable service provider is located. Contrary to the Examiner’s assertions, detecting Service Operator Code (SOC) and the System Identification Code (SIC) is not equivalent to storing cell information. SOC and SIC differentiate between Verizon, AT&T, and Cingular networks not the geographically distributed cells of wireless transceivers within a specific network. After Bamburak determines the appropriate service provider it is still faced with the problem that is solved by the claims of the present application. Because, as established above, Bamburak does not teach or suggest manipulation of the information about network cells, it does not anticipate any of the elements recited in claim 1.

Veerasamy teaches identifying coverage holes in a wireless network. It describes a controller capable of determining a geographic location of the mobile station at the time an ongoing call is dropped by the mobile and storing the geographic location in the memory. (see Abstract) In its paragraph 0009 Veerasamy describes how the geographic location is obtained. That paragraph states:

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus further comprises a Global Positioning System (GPS) device coupled to the controller, wherein the controller determines the geographic location and the drop time using the GPS device.

This, obtaining geographic location using GPS, does not rise to the level of suggesting “storing details of the cell, as cell information, to which the device was connected at the time of loss of the network for at least prior first and second separate instances of network” recited in claim 1.

Thus, Bamburak, Veerasamy, and their combination do not teach, describe, or suggest storing numerous instances of network cell information and, upon powering the cell-phone on, using the stored information to connect to the network, as claimed in claim 1. Moreover, Bamburak, Veerasamy, and their combination do not teach, describe, or suggest “conducting a network cell search if none of the stored cells are available” as recited in claim 1.

Claim 10 has limitations to substantially the same effect.

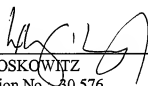
Parkkila, which is directed to cell selection in a telecommunication system, does not remedy the limitations of Bamburak and Veerasamy.

Thus, Applicants' independent claim was allowed and independent claims 1 and 10 are patentably distinct Bamburak, Veerasamy, Parkkila, or their combination. Claims 2-9 and 11-16 depend directly or indirectly from above discussed independent claims and are, therefore, allowable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the respective independent claims.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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